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REVIEWS

Les Incipit des poèmes français antérieurs au XVI^e siècle. Répertoire bibliographique établi à l'aide des notes de M. Paul Meyer par ARTHUR LANGFORS. Paris, Librairie Ancienne Honoré Champion, Editeur Edouard Champion. 8vo. Tome I, pp. vii + 444.

In the last few years a number of books have been published which are indispensable guides to the researches of serious students of medieval literature. In Latin literature we have A. G. Little's *Initia operum latinorum quae saeculis XIII, XIV, XV attribuntur* (1904) and M. Vattasso's *Initia Patrum aliorumque scriptorum ecclesiasticorum ex Mignei Patrologia et ex compluribus aliis libris* (Rome, 1906-8), and in English, Carleton Brown's *A Register of Middle English Religious and Didactic Verse*, of which the first volume was published in 1916. The earliest work, however, of just this kind was devoted to a French literary genre by Gaston Raynaud, in his *Bibliographie des chansonniers des XIII^e et XIV^e siècles*, published in 1884, and this work is incidentally supplemented in its own particular subject in the recently published work, which covers so much wider a field, *Les Incipit des poèmes français antérieurs au XVI^e siècle*. This work is based upon the notes, made for his own convenience, by the lamented Professor Paul Meyer, who for fifty years before his death stood preëminent among scholars on account of his unique acquaintance with every department of the medieval literature of France, both north and south. This acquaintance, which he revealed in numerous books and articles, of which we owe a list to Mr. Seymour de Ricci (*Revue archéologique*, 1917, II, 436-54), was not merely that of the trained cataloguer, but of the literary historian. The responsible author is Professor Långfors the Swedish Romance scholar, who has shown the same interests of the older scholar in his analyses of manuscripts, and in his editions in the less attractive fields of Old French literature.

This first volume is devoted to the *incipits* of the poems which interested Professor Meyer, arranged alphabetically, with cross-references to both variants of readings and versions, and references to editions, or descriptions of, the manuscripts in which the poems

entered are found. The best-read students of Old French will be saved time and worry, and rejoice accordingly, in being able to discover at once whether, and where, some work he finds either in a manuscript or mentioned in a catalogue of manuscripts, has been published, and the novice will have no excuse, henceforth, for publishing as an unknown work something which has been known, and commented on, a number of times. Unfortunately, one finds straightway occasion to criticize the unfortunate use made of his material by the compiler, Professor Långfors. Professor Meyer, in making these notes for his own convenience, referred for details on the manuscripts of certain poems to his own article in the *Histoire littéraire*, XXXIII, on the lives of the saints, and to Nätebus's *Die nicht-lyrischen Strophensformen des Altfranzösischen*, just as he failed to mention the *incipit* of the *Roman de la Rose*, with a reference to Langlois's work on its manuscripts, while he gave a complete list of the manuscripts of the *Ysopet* of Marie de France (68), and of the *Roman de Troie* (360-1), of which excellent editions, with full descriptions of the manuscripts, have been published. One has no occasion to find fault with the learned scholar's private notes, however temperamental they may be, but it was the business of the compiler who printed them to give them a uniformity in detail of information, even at the cost of increasing the size of his work, by referring to the manuscripts containing the several lives of saints and other poems. The second volume is to contain indices of subjects; it should also include a list of manuscripts referred to, such as is to be found in the *Table des trente premiers volumes* of the *Romania*, but the unfortunate system of giving second-hand references in the first volume makes this important addition hardly feasible. Such an index to manuscripts would have saved the compiler a number of errors and omissions. To cite two typical examples of the advantage of such an index: On p. 142 under the *incipit*:

Festes mauvaisement coultive
Qui de bonnes euvres oisive,

reference is made to the two manuscripts Avranches 244, and Paris, B. N., nouv. acq. fr. 6835, on which is based the text of the poem on the "Légende des danseurs maudits," by G. Raynaud in the *Mélanges Wilmotte*, II, 569. On p. 225 is cited the edition of E. Walberg of "Deux anciens poèmes inédits sur saint Simon de

Crépy" (*Lunds Univ. Arsskr.*, N. F., Afd. 1, vol. VI, No. 5, 1909), as a reference to one of the poems, but one does not find the *incipit* of the other poem published in the same work, based on the above-mentioned manuscripts. Detailed descriptions of these manuscripts are available, of that of Avranches in the *Cat. gén. des MSS. des bibliothèques publ. de France* x (1889), 122, and of that of Paris by L. Delisle in the *Jour. des Savants*, 1899, 500-5. A reference to these descriptions would have identified as parts of one work those poems entered under (p. 57) :

Ceux qui puissans et riches a tousjours estre vuelent
Entendent es vroiz biens qui ainsi croistre seulent,

and a version of the life of St. Alexis (p. 167) :

Il ot en cel temps de jadis,

the latter being attributed to Eustache, prieur de la Fontaine Notre-Dame, who was only the patron of the nameless author. These same manuscripts would have supplied a number of missing items. Again, under (409) :

Tres douches gens, or entendés
En l'onneur Dieu, qui fu penés,

Le Trespas Nostre-Dame, reference is made to MS. Arras 742. But there is no *incipit* for the prologue :

Oes, seigneur, pour Dieu le très doulz roy amant
Sy orez une istoire qui est belle et plaisant

(cf. L. Pannier in G. Paris, *La Vie de Saint Alexis*, 1887, 337-8) of a version of the *Vie de Saint Alexis* entered under (132) :

Ens en l'onneur de Dieu, le pere tout puissant,

although at times care seems to be taken in this work to cite variants of *incipits*. Finally, one fails to find the *incipit* of the *Roman de la Belle Helène* :

Seigneurs plaise vous oir glorieuse canchon.
Je croy que de milleur dire ne porroit-on

(*Cat. gén. des MSS. des bibl. publ. des départ.*, iv [1872], 297), the principal work in this manuscript (foll. 1r-199v), of which there are a number of manuscripts, as well as at least one manuscript of another version (W. Söderhjelm, *Mém. de la Soc. néo-philol. à Helsingfors*, I [1893], 35-6).

It is all too evident that the editor has not spent much time in arranging, correcting, and supplementing his material, as a few instances will show. On p. 8 reference is made to H. Stein, *Études sur Olivier de la Marche*, which is also cited pp. 82, 84, 87, but it is only on p. 118 that the almost necessary information is given: "Extrait des Mém. de l'Acad. de Belgique, t. XLIX." P. 12: The two editions of the *Purgatoire de saint Patrice* of Marie de France by Jenkins certainly deserve mention. P. 19: For Latin versions of an independent legend of Seth, cf. Mussafia, "Sulla leggenda del legno della Croce," *Sitzungsber. d. Wien. Ak.*, LXIII (1869), 184, 197; W. Meyer aus Speyer, "Die Gesch. d. Kreuzholzes vor Christus," *Abhandl. d. K. Bayer. Akad. d. Wiss., philos.-philol. Kl.*, XVI, pt. 2, (1882), 130 ff., 166. P. 26: The *Roman du Lys* has been published by F. C. Ostrander, New York, 1915, and its number in the Morgan Library is M. 40. P. 27: There is no such periodical as the *Archaeologica Britannica*, as the adjective is superfluous, and the page numbers are 1-423. P. 51: For a Catalan "Fachet" cf. *Rom.*, xv, 192; xvi, 106. P. 54: For prose versions of the *Curia baronum*, cf. edition of F. W. Maitland and W. P. Baildon, Selden Society, iv (1891), and on term Stubbs, *Constitutional Hist. of England*, I (fifth ed.), 431, n. P. 56: On the *Chastielement des dames* of Robert de Blois, cf. C. V. Langlois, *La vie en France au moyen-âge*, 158-9, 173 ff. P. 62: Why omit a reference to the *incipit* of this work of Robert de Blois in citing a fragment from it? P. 67: On the *Bible* of Hugues de Berzi, cf. Langlois, *op. cit.*, 65 ff. P. 86: On the *Volucraire* of Omont, C. Fant, *L'Image du monde*, Upsala, 1886, 46-51. On the *Vie de Judas*, P. F. Baum, *Publ. Mod. Lang. Assn.*, XXXI (1916), 533. P. 97: On source of the *Histoire d'Adam et d'Eve* and on other translations, W. Meyer aus Speyer, *Abh. d. K. Bayer. Ak. d. Wiss., philos.-philol. Kl.*, XIV, part 3 (1878), 185 ff., Horstmann, *Herrigs Archiv*, LXXIV, 352. P. 111: *Le Pas de Saladin*. Add ed. F. E. Lodeman, *Mod. Lang. Notes*, XII (1897), 11, 42, 105, 137; cf. G. Paris, *Journ. des Savants* 1893, 493-8. *La Bible* of Guiot de Provins. Add ed. in *Les Œuvres de G. de Provins*, J. Orr, 1915. P. 116: A *fiche* has evidently been misplaced "Ou cuer d'yver, es longues nuyz," as it is found in a fuller form on p. 266. P. 174-5: Jason et Hercules, Joly, *Roman de Troie*, I, 417, n. 1. P. 187: Add to mss. of *Le Mireur du monde*, B. N., f. fr. 10237, fol. 203v-207r; H. Omont, *Bibl. de l'École des Chartes*, LXIV (1903), 526. P. 207: Under

"Li messenger alassé del chemin" refer to "En l'estorie de Bretane majour," p. 127. P. 223: "Mostrer vous vueil une parolle" is not noted as a variant of "Segnor, entendés ma raison" (367), and a reference should also have been made to "Seigneurs, vous que en Dieux creez" (383). P. 382: *Roman d'Eledus et de Serene*. Add H. Suchier, *Zeitsch. f. rom. Philol.*, XXI (1897), 112; P. Meyer, *Rom.*, XXVI, 327. P. 441: *Le lai de Haveloc* has been printed not only in the almost inaccessible editions of Madden in the Roxburghe Club Publications, and in the privately printed edition of F. Michel, but also in the equally rare edition made for the Caxton Club by Thomas Wright in 1850, and in the very accessible edition in the Rolls Series made by T. D. Hardy and C. T. Martin in 1888, of Geffrei Gaimar's *L'estorie des Englois*, I, 290-319, where (320-27) are given the variants of the manuscript of the College of Arms, usually known as the Herald's College, where it is numbered Arundel, XIV, as it is correctly cited under "Bien est raison et droiture" on p. 46. P. 443: The versified list of the names of the companions of William the Conqueror was included in the *Chronicon* of John Brompton published in the *Historiae Anglicanae scriptores decem*, ed. R. Twysden, London, 1652, I, 963-5, the source of the list in A. Thierry *Hist. de la Conquête de l'Angleterre par les Normands* (sixth ed.), II (1843), 396 ff., where the reference is made to a non-existing book "*Rer. anglic. Script.*, ed. Selden." On the existence of a similar list cf. Dugdale, *Monasticon*, ed. 1846, VI, 230-1; "Leg. of St. Wolfade and Ruffyn," vv. 318 ff., in C. Horstmann, *Altengl. Leg.*, N. F. 1881, 313, and on the historical worthlessness of such lists cf. J. Horace Round, *Monthly Review*, III, June, 1901, 91-111.

These few examples will show how this most useful book could have been made even more useful. It has not been the intention of the book to include *chansons de geste* and lyrics within its scope (vi): that is the reason, perhaps, why a reader is surprised not to find a number of dramatic poems noted in their due places. It is unfortunate that references to Gröber's article on Old French literature in his *Grundriss*, are conspicuous by their absence, as it would have furnished a small quota of unmentioned *incipits* and manuscripts, an omission the more unfortunate as a number of the manuscripts have since been destroyed.

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